## AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (original)  A distributed computer comprising at least two interconnected computers, each of said computers storing:

i) component process code executable to provide a process forming part of a distributed software application;

ii) event messaging code executable to receive one or more event messages from another of said computers;

iii) event reaction rule storage code executable to store, in an updateable store, one or more event reaction rules which include one or more calls to procedures in said component process in reaction to the receipt of said event message;

iv) event reaction interpretation code executable to operate said computer in accordance with said event reaction rules;

v) event reaction rule modification code executable to allow a user to modify said event reaction rules stored in said updateable store whilst said component process is running and thereby alter the operation of said distributed software application whilst it is running.

2. (original)  A distributed computer according to claim 1 wherein each of said computers stores component procedure interface information to be associated with said component process code.

3. (original)  A distributed computer according to claim 1 wherein comprises computational reflection code executable to convert method or procedure call data in said event reaction rule into a corresponding method or procedure call for execution.

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4. (original)   A distributed computer according to claim 1 in which said event messages are structured in accordance with event schema data accessible to each of said computers.

5. (original)   A distributed computer according to claim 4 in which said event messages comprise a combination of event data and mark-up data.

6. (original)   A distributed computer according to claim 5 in which said event messages are sent as encoded text.

7. (original)   A distributed computer according to claim 1 in which said process modification code is executable to configure said process by specifying a method or procedure to be called and the parameters to accompany said method or procedure call.

8. (original)   A distributed computer according to claim 7 in which said specified method or procedure is running on the other of said computers.

9. (original)   A distributed computer according to claim 1 in which said interconnected computers comprise an administration computer having installed thereon graphical user interface code executable to allow an administrator to update said event reaction rules.

10. (original)   A distributed computer according to claim 1 in which said event reaction rules specify a method or procedure to be carried out in reaction to the reception of an event message.

11. (original)   A distributed computer according to claim 10 in which said event reaction rules further specify a condition to be tested, the carrying out of said action being conditional on said condition being met.

12. (original)   A distributed computer according to claim 1 in which each of said computers further stores database management code executable to provide a database store for said rules stored on said computer.

13. (original)   A distributed computer according to claim 1 in which each of said computers further stores component process details including names of one or more procedures or methods provided by said component process.

14. (original)   A distributed computer according to claim 13 in which said component process details further include names of one or more input parameters to be included with a method call and an indication of the type of those input parameters.

15. (currently amended)   A distributed computer according to claim 13 ~~or 14~~ further comprising graphical user interface code executable to enable a user to view said component process details.

16. (original)   A method of operating a distributed computer comprising a plurality of interconnected computers, said method comprising operating each of said computers to:

i) execute one or more component processes which form part of a distributed program running on said distributed computer;

ii) store one or more event reaction rules, said event reaction rule including a reference to one or more procedures within said component process;

iii) provide a user with an interface allowing updating of said event reaction rules; and

iv) responsive to the receipt of an event message at said computer, to interpret a corresponding event reaction rule and thereby execute said one or more procedures referred to in said event reaction rule.

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